

MICROFILMED

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NOFORN

POOR ORIGINAL

24 April 1977

~~Secret~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP 1999

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6. **THE FUTURE OF THE FIRM**

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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] 24 APRIL 1977 [REDACTED]

CHILE: //CARDINAL SILVA, PRIMATE OF CHILE,

THE CLERGY'S GROWING

HESITANCE MAY BE CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT TO HESITATE ABOUT TAKING ANY
ADDITIONAL REPRESSIVE STEPS THAT MIGHT FURTHER ANTAGONIZE ITS
CRITICS. / [REDACTED]

77CHILLAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET, REACTING IN AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CONCILIATORY MANNER, HAS BACKED OFF FOR THE MOMENT FROM SOME OF THE HEAVY-HANDED POLICIES THAT RECENTLY INCITED BITTER CONDEMNATION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, LABOR LEADERS, THE PRESS, AND LEADING INTELLECTUALS. PINOCHET IS PROBABLY CONCERNED THAT HE HAD OVERSTEPPED HIMSELF BY ENACTING A SERIES OF HARSH MEASURES ADVOCATED BY A CLOSE CIRCLE OF EXTREME RIGHTIST ADVISERS. //

//TO AVERT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND
EMBARRASSMENT ABOARD, PINOCHET ABRUPTLY OUSTED JUSTICE MINISTER
DALLIANO ON APRIL 20. THE MINISTER, A BRUSQUE LAWYER AND A CRONY OF
PINOCHET WITH A PENCHANT FOR STEPPING ON TOES, WAS IN OFFICE FOR

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2. MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE.

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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PART 3

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JUST OVER A MONTH. HE AROUSED THE IRE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HIERARCHY BY PUBLICLY ATTACKING A GROUP OF BISHOPS FOR THEIR STRONG CENSURE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN CHILE.//

//DAMILANO'S STATEMENTS APPEARED IN PRINT AT A TIME WHEN PINOCHET HAD BEEN CAUTIOUSLY SEEKING TO AVOID FRICTION WITH THE CHURCH. IN A LETTER TO THE OFFENDED BISHOPS, THE PRESIDENT CLEARLY DISAVOWED THE VIEWS OF THE OUTSPOKEN MINISTER.//

//ALTHOUGH LEADERS OF THE JUNTA AND CHURCH HAVE GONE TO SOME LENGTHS TO KEEP THEIR DISPUTE FROM LEADING TO A SHARP BREAK, THE CHURCH SEEMS LIKELY TO ASSUME A MORE BELLIGERENT ATTITUDE IN THE FUTURE. SO FAR, THE MOST STRIKING EVIDENCE OF INCREASING STRIDENCY HAS BEEN AN ATTACK BY THE CHURCH ON THE JUNTA FOR DISSOLVING CHILE'S REMAINING DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES LAST MONTH. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY STRONGHOLD OF CRITICISM THAT HAS NOT BEEN SILENCED BY THE GOVERNMENT.//

//SILVA

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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[REDACTED] EXCOMMUNICATION OF THE PRESI-

DENT AND MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT AS A LAST
RESORT. [REDACTED]

//MAY DAY OBSERVANCES PLANNED BY THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC LABOR LEADERS COULD PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR THE EXPRESSION
OF ANTIGOVERNMENT VIEWS. THE RELIGIOUS AND LABOR LEADERS WILL
PROBABLY BE CAREFUL, HOWEVER, TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT
PROVOKE A SHOWDOWN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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